

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP)**

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Border Patrol Agents Seize 729 Pounds of Marijuana

Two Separate Vehicles Discovered Packed with Illegal Narcotics

CHULA VISTA, Calif. - Border Patrol Agents working at a checkpoint in the East County seized two separate vehicles this morning containing more than 729 pounds of marijuana with an estimated national street value of more than \$510,000.

The agents were working at a Border Patrol checkpoint at about 5:00 a.m. when an approaching 1998 GMC pickup turned around and headed away from the checkpoint. Agents discovered the vehicle abandoned a short distance from the checkpoint with seven burlap bags containing more than 393 pounds of marijuana in the vehicle. The driver was not located.

Approximately three hours later, agents were questioning the driver of a vehicle at the checkpoint when they observed several suspicious duffel bags in the front passenger seat. When agents directed the vehicle to a secondary inspection area, the vehicle sped away from the checkpoint. Agents discovered the vehicle abandoned about ¾ of a mile from the checkpoint. Six military-type duffel bags containing 336 pounds of marijuana were found in the vehicle.

More than 20,200 pounds of marijuana with an estimated national street value in excess of \$14 million have been seized by Border Patrol Agents in the San Diego Sector since Oct. 1, 2002.

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